

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [0034], on page 3 of the published application No. 2005/0214216, with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] As can be seen, the white microspheres of ~~polylactic~~ **polylactic** acid are clearly identified within the alveolar macrophages and therefore can be used as a specific sensitive and stable marker for the diagnosis of aspiration.